

## Elected officials, DOE leaders celebrate dawn of Idaho National Lab

Idaho National Laboratory leaders unveiled the new logo for the laboratory, and then heard encouraging words from Bill Magwood, director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, along with national, regional and local dignitaries.

Speaking by way of an audio-video link to DOE headquarters, Magwood said he had talked about the INL with new Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, who sent his congratulations and his commitment to work with the Idaho congressional delegation to make the new laboratory a real success.



**Bill Magwood, director of the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology**

Magwood told INL leaders the current administration believes firmly in nuclear energy's future. "The Department of Energy is very committed to this laboratory," Magwood said. "You will find DOE will support you - both at headquarters and at the Idaho Operations Office - and we will help make you successful."

Beth Sellers, DOE Idaho Operations Office manager, said, "We have pointed to this day for two-and-a-half years and we are very pleased that Battelle Energy Alliance is on board, and we are moving forward."

"I believe all Idahoans should be proud of their new national laboratory and the role it will play in providing energy and national security technologies for this nation," Sellers said. "We have a very important mission to accomplish at this laboratory, one I am extremely proud to participate in achieving."

Sellers read correspondence from Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, who declared Feb. 1, 2005, as "Idaho National Laboratory Day in Idaho."

In a letter to John Grossenbacher, INL laboratory director, the governor and the entire Idaho congressional delegation stated, "Today, we see a new name, Idaho National Laboratory, and a new contractor, Battelle Energy Alliance. These changes emphasize the Department of Energy's commitment to revitalizing our national laboratory and securing its place as a world-class research center. We expect INL to be a research leader in national security, energy and environmental science."

The letter from Idaho's political leaders said expectations for the new lab include improving the nation's ability to protect communication, power and other essential systems, developing nuclear energy technology, and enhancing the country's ability to address environmental contamination.

Signed by Gov. Kempthorne, Sen. Larry Craig, Sen. Mike Crapo, Rep. Mike Simpson and Rep. Butch Otter, the letter stated, "Achieving this vision in our changing global economy will require investments in laboratory infrastructure and resources. It will also require collaboration among government, private enterprise and educational institutions. We turn our focus to the future while remembering lessons from the site's past and its prior contributions. We appreciate Battelle Energy Alliance's dedication to worker safety, environmental protection and public involvement. As we embrace change, and the opportunities that accompany it, we must also ensure some things remain constant. Eastern Idaho's talented work force, strong sense of community and pioneer spirit - these have been key ingredients in the site's success and will provide a strong foundation for its future. Today, we renew our commitment to being strong advocates for the site and proudly begin a new research era."



**Idaho Falls Mayor Linda Milam**

Idaho Falls Mayor Linda Milam praised the contributions of workers who have built the foundation for the laboratory over the past 55 years.

In spite of Idaho Falls' remote location in the late 1940s, "Good people came and did good work," Milam said. "And this site is here as testimony to the work that they did all those years ago. Over the years, the mission has shifted and evolved, but the commitment of this community and of this region has never wavered. It is still strong, it will be strong and we have great hopes for the future. And we will stand by the INL - I love the new name - we will stand by you and be supportive. Good people will continue to come because this is the place where good work will continue to be done. And so to BEA, welcome, we are glad you're here. To those who have been here for all these years, we're glad you're still here. There is work to be done. So after the celebrations of today, we'll be getting back to work."

John Grossenbacher, INL laboratory director, said, "Today is important. Today we have a new laboratory. We have a new name. We have a new leadership-management team"

"The mission for our laboratory is a license to lead. It is a license to lead the nation in a renaissance in nuclear energy. It is a license to lead in developing an economically viable, environmentally acceptable and technically achievable nuclear energy option for the country. It's a license to lead in developing national and homeland security capabilities at the lab. It's a license to lead in developing a world-class lab with a broad, strong enduring basic science base. And it's a license to lead in terms of teaming and collaboration with all the other partners that are going to be necessary to deliver on this renaissance."



**Beth Sellers, DOE Idaho Operations Office manager, and INL President and Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher unveil the new INL logo.**

Sellers noted that both the INL and ICP contractors will need to work cooperatively, and they will rely on each other for services and success.

Paul Divjak, Bechtel BWXT Idaho president and general manager, congratulated BEA on becoming the first to manage the INL , and thanked employees of the laboratory for all their support and help during the last five and a half years.

"We will be here to continue to work on the Idaho Completion Project for at least another three months, and perhaps for another seven years, and that's what we're counting on and planning for," Divjak said. "And we also wish you well, and your families well. Work safely and play safely."

Among the other dignitaries recognized were Kathleen Trever, the state of Idaho's INL Oversight Office manager; Knut Meyerin, regional director for the Idaho Falls Office of Sen. Larry Craig; Coleen Erickson, field representative for Rep. Mike Simpson; and Willie Preacher, representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

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